

1 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 2 PUBLIC HEARING
 3 Nuiqsut, Alaska

4
 In Re:)
 5)
 Amendment to the Northeast)
 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska)
 Integrated Activity Plan/)
 Environmental Impact Statement)
)
 8 _____)

9 **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

10 Nuiqsut, Alaska
 Nuiqsut City Hall
 11 August 9, 2004
 6:00 p.m.

12
 APPEARANCES:

13
 14 BOB SCHNEIDER - Bureau of Land Management,
 Fairbanks, Alaska
 15 SUSAN CHILDS - Bureau of Land Management,
 Anchorage, Alaska
 16
 17 STUART PAULUS - ENSR, Redmond, Washington
 18 STEVE ELLSWORTH - ENSR, Anchorage, Alaska

19
 ALSO PRESENT:

20
 Translator and
 Hearing Officer: Arnold Brower, Jr., Barrow, Alaska
 Court Reporter: Janice Scott, Metro Court Reporting,
 Anchorage, Alaska

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 (On record)

3 CHAIR BROWER: Good evening. (Speaking in
4 Inupiaq) We will open this Bureau of Land Management NPRA-A
5 meeting. And I will ask Alice to open our evening meeting in
6 town here with a prayer.

7 ALICE IPALOOK: (Presents a brief invocation
8 in Inupiaq)

9 CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Tonight Bob will
10 part, Bob Schneider. (Speaking in Inupiaq) So, he will give
11 us the presentation.

12 MR. SCHNEIDER: Good evening. My name, as
13 Arnold said, is Bob Schneider and I'm the field manager for
14 the Bureau of Land Management's Northern Field Office in
15 Fairbanks.

16 This evening Arnold and I are going to try something a
17 little bit different than what we've done in the past. I have
18 normally given this presentation and then we've had someone
19 translate the presentation as we've gone. This evening I've
20 asked Arnold if he would just not go ahead and give the
21 presentation in your Native language. The slides are in
22 English and I'll be here to change the slides, so I'll stay
23 out of Arnold's way.

24 But we'll give you an orientation to the project to
the proposal that we have in front of you, and what we want
after the presentation is to hear from you through formal

public comment at this hearing.

2 So, with that, Arnold, we will begin.

3 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates presentation in
4 Inupiaq) Okay.

5 MR. SCHNEIDER: Would everyone please give
6 Arnold a hand for his work here? (Applause)

7 CHAIR BROWER: I'll send you a bill.

8 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. (Laughter) I'm sure
9 you will. I would like to now actually turn it over to
10 Arnold. Arnold is the Hearing Officer this evening, so we can
11 take your comments and Arnold has a statement that he has to
12 make and then we will turn it over for people to take public
13 comments.

14 Arnold?

15 CHAIR BROWER: What is the correct time now,
16 Bob?

17 MR. SCHNEIDER: It is now six minutes after
18 eight.

19 CHAIR BROWER: Good evening. It is now six
20 minutes after eight. The appointed time is an hour and six
21 minutes late, and I would like to call this hearing to order.

22 My name is Arnold Brower, Jr., I'm going to be
23 tonight's hearing officer.

24 This hearing is held for the purpose of providing you
25 opportunity to make oral comments on the Bureau of Land
Management's Draft Amendment of the Northeast National

Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

2 Unlike the open house, this is a formal hearing and as
such, we will not be entertaining questions. However, several
4 individuals from BLM as well as representatives of ENSR, the
contractor assisting in developing of the EIS will be
6 available to answer questions after the meeting if time
allows.

8 Additional information on the document and the EIS
process is available at the sign-in table, which is right over
10 there by where Bob is now. The Draft Amendment is available
on the internet at (<http://nenpra.ensr.com>) and a few hard
12 copies are available at the public room in the Federal
Building. There's no Federal Building here, so I assume
14 that's the Anchorage office or the Fairbanks office.

15 All comments provided to BLM and its contractor will
be compiled, analyzed and considered in preparing the final
17 Plan Amendment and EIS. In addition to speaking tonight,
comments can be provided through the website or by mailing
19 them to the Bureau of Land Management, Number 13, Attention
Susan Childs, who is back there in the corner by the door.
21 222 West Seventh Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513. The website
address and the BLM's mailing address are listed here.

23 The deadline for submitting comments is August 23,
2004. This hearing is one of the series being conducted to
25 obtain the public's comments. In addition to tonight's
meetings, meetings have been in Anchorage, Fairbanks,

Washington, D.C., in Anaktuvuk Pass, meetings will be
concluded with Atkasuk, Barrow and Bethel.

3 So that we accurately record your comments tonight, I
will call the names of those who have indicated they wish to
speak and invite each person to come up to the microphone,
then you will state your name, state your organization you
represent, if any, and then make your comments. If you have
written comments, I will ask you to provide them to our
recorder here, and they will be included as part of the record
of this hearing. I will ask each speaker to limit comments to
five minutes.

12 I will hold up the sign when you have one minute
remaining. If you reach the time limit, I will ask for you a
summary of your comments and then request that you step down
and let others speak. When we complete the list of people
wishing to speak, if time allows I may offer you another
opportunity to speak as well if there are any others who wish
to comment.

19 Before we begin to take the comments, I would like to
express that our meeting tonight is specifically to hear
comments and concerns relating to the Amendments to the
Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, IAP/EIS. Your
comments will serve several purposes; they will tell us if we
have correctly identified the resources of the area, the uses
of the lands and the potential effects of the different
Alternatives in the Draft Plan EIS. You can suggest other

Alternatives that would reduce or eliminate effects on the
lands and resources we spoke about today.

3 As we begin now to take comments, I request that the
audience be considerate of the speaker and give him or her the
courtesy of your attention. In other words, try to speak
whispering or below.

7 I now call the first person to speak. Before I do
that let me... (Translates in Inupiaq) Okay. The first one
I have is Sally Rothwell. Are you here?

10 MS. ROTHWELL: I'm here.

11 CHAIR BROWER: It's a roll call. Please,
those of you that are going to speak, come to this table so
that the recorder can pick up your voice and speak in an
audible voice.

15 **STATEMENT BY SALLY ROTHWELL**

16 Good evening. My name is Sally Rothwell and I'm an
Environmental Coordinator for Conoco-Phillips Alaska. Conoco-
Phillips is the largest producer of oil and gas, and the most
active explorer in Alaska. We have also been a long time
neighbor of the community of Nuiqsut, and I appreciate the
opportunity to share my comments with you here tonight.

22 Our company has a proven track record of high quality
environmental performance on Alaska's North Slope and in the
NPR-A. Conoco-Phillips is a leader in innovative solutions
that protect the environment, such as the minimal footprint of
the Alpine production facilities. Conoco-Phillips has

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participated in 15 exploration wells in the NPR-A, all without significant environmental incident.

3 In 2001, Conoco-Phillips and our partner Anadarko Petroleum announced several discoveries in the NPR-A. Since that time, an EIS process has begun for the new satellite field developments in both the NPR-A and on state and Native corporation lands near the Alpine oil field. These new developments confirm the strategic potential for oil and gas on the NPR-A.

10 As the draft plan points out, much has been learned since the Record of Decision for the Northeast area was first issued in 1998. Conoco-Phillips endorses continued leasing in the Northeast portion of the NPR-A and the opening of Teshekpuk Lake by the BLM. This will allow access to some of the most important prospective areas, which are located near the crest of the Barrow Arch.

17 Conoco-Phillips believes that the most sensitive areas north of Teshekpuk Lake, such as the lakes with the highest use by molting geese, should remain off limits. We also acknowledge that there should be a buffer around these lakes as a further measure for protection of these species.

22 However, we are concerned in general that BLM has recommended the blanket exclusion from leasing of the 350 square miles of additional prospective acreage north of Teshekpuk Lake.

We are also concerned that BLM has not addressed some

of the extensive stream setbacks in the area. In our opinion,
the current three-mile setback at Fish Creek is unnecessary
and is double the 1.5 miles originally recommended in the
1998.

5 Conoco-Phillips supports the BLM's proposed
"performance-based" stipulations and required operating
procedures for the Northeast NPR-A. These revised
stipulations would provide a framework to make compliance
efforts more efficient, where we can continue to operate in a
safe and environmentally-sound manner and respect the
important subsistence usage of the area.

12 Conoco-Phillips remains committed to environmental
excellence and responsible development. Exploration
activities would take place with minimal impacts using ice
roads and ice pads to access prospects during the Arctic
winter.

17 Future oil and gas development in the NPR-A will have
economic benefits for Alaska, for the communities of the North
Slope and for the nation. For more than 30 years, oil and gas
development has been the economic engine for the North Slope
 Borough and the State of Alaska.

22 In 2003, the State of Alaska received more than \$1
billion from the oil industry in taxes and royalties. The
three previous lease sales in the NPR-A have generated more
than \$222 million in bonus payments, split between the state
and federal governments. Clearly, continued investment on the

North Slope benefits everyone who lives in Alaska, through monies for state and local governments that result in better services and better schools.

4 Conoco-Phillips also understands that economic benefit from continued oil and gas development is only part of the picture. We are keenly aware that the land and water of the North Slope, and the subsistence environment and traditions it supports, are fundamental to the Native culture. These values must continue to be a vital part of our collective future.

10 Conoco-Phillips has proven that we can work closely with our neighbors and operate in a manner that respects the way of life of the residents of Alaska's North Slope. This takes constant effort on both parts and we are committed to working with the North Slope residents to ensure development happens in a way that respects your heritage and your subsistence way of life.

17 In conclusion, Conoco-Phillips is pleased to offer these comments. Continued lease sales in the NPR-A will enhance the nation's energy and economic security, and our nation needs to secure its energy future. We are confident that the Bureau of Land Management and the residents of the North Slope will find a way to balance the needs of the nation with the needs of the Native people. Conoco-Phillips pledges to see that the balance defined from this effort is the balance that is maintained for generations to come.

In addition to my comments today, Conoco-Phillips

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plans to submit written comments for this draft plan review process.

3 Thank you. Quyanakpak. Arnold, did you want to translate?

5 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates in Inupiaq) Joe? Oh, the other Joe. The first Joe and Isaac. Leonard? Leonard Lampe. Good evening.

8 **STATEMENT BY LEONARD LAMPE**

9 Good evening everybody. All of our listeners, audience. My name is Leonard Lampe, I serve for the Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel here in Nuiqsut. I would like to thank everybody for coming up to Nuiqsut to hold this public hearing, as well as all our invited guests and members of the community.

15 In terms -- just before I start, we do plan to send written comments to BLM, but I have some of the concerns and comments that I'll make today.

18 With oil and gas exploration development in the Northeast, we are concerned as a community, as well as a subsistence community, as well as a community of oil and gas development that has occurred in the past 30 years. With oil and gas, yes, life is good among the Inupiat people, it's been for the past 30 years. It has brought us a lot of changes up to the North Slope. Especially, I think a lot good changes in terms of education and health.

There are still issues that we would like to bring out

in terms of subsistence concerns. There are millions of dollars being made off this land, yet there are no mitigation measures or enforcement or follow-ups on subsistence issues. There are many issues that the industry brushes off, saying it's not their responsibility, the State of Alaska as well, with Fish and Game, everybody pretty much points at each other and not taking any responsibility of the activity that occurs out there in terms of impact.

9 Where the hunters are going out 30 miles to get caribou and a chopper that's doing study of the area tested by the industry, that industry will not take terms or responsibility for that impact. The State of Alaska, same thing, as well as the federal government. There are no mitigation impacts to these hunters, so therefore, you have a diverted caribou as well very interfered and upset hunters. It's been like this for many years.

17 We've been a real quiet town. Like I said, a neighboring community of Conoco-Phillips. Well, we've been trying to work together in many ways, not only in our city, but in our Native village as well as our Village Corporation. But there are still measures out there that are not being answered. There are still frustrated hunters. There are still frustrated people of the impacts, but yet no one is taking responsibility. I encourage BLM to take the responsibility of this. You are the people that are selling this land, or leasing this land to the industry, therefore,

you should also accommodate the people that reside and hunt in this area.

3 Northeast -- Northwest NPR-A had a lot of -- we've
4 learned a lot from that in terms of looking at Northeast. The
5 subsistence panel who observes and recommends mitigation to
6 mitigate or divert impacts has had a very hard time in terms
7 of making the state and the industry follow-up on the
8 mitigation measures. There's -- like I said, there is no laid
9 law in these sales, of who is to follow-up on the little guy,
10 the hunter. That's what it always comes down to, the hunter
11 and fisherman. They put all their effort and time into
12 catching these caribou and fish and duck and geese, and when
13 there is no success because of impacts of oil and gas, there
14 is still no mitigation measure for them. There's nothing at
15 all. It is very upsetting to see that. As a panel to try and
16 observe this and try to balance you say, where is the balance
17 of our side? Who is balancing it for the Native people of the
18 North Slope? It's been like this for 30 years. I -- I
19 encourage the people of Barrow and the area to start getting
20 involved with your subsistence panels, with your subsistence
21 areas and letting the industry, as well as the state and the
22 federal government know that these are important places to you
23 and your families and your communities.

24 Setbacks, buffer zones are essential. They are needed
here on the North Slope. Those are our only protections that
we have of these vital places. There's millions of acres out

there being explored, what's just a few acres to be stayed off, for not to have exploration or development or permanent facilities? These are essential to the North Slope people.

4 I don't know what more I can say tonight, but I would like to bring that across, that mitigation measures need to be implemented to the North Slope resident site, to the human site where a lot of hunters and fishermen put a lot of time and effort going out there. Like I said, in the past hearings, if you don't know who you are, you can't concentrate where you're going.

11 So, I really strongly believe that subsistence is a strong part of our life. It will always be, and for us to protect our subsistence, it's real vital to us. And I know that Conoco and everyone else wants to work with the Nuiqsut people in terms of protecting that, but I express that to the federal government, that you do need measurements for the local people. You do need to take -- be responsible for the lease sales because you are the ones that are leasing this area. If it wasn't for that activity, none of the activities of this would occur. No impacts would occur like this.

21 So, I recommend to the federal government, BLM, to work with the local people on the mitigation measures, and I thank you for your time. Thank you.

24 CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Leonard. (Applause)
25 Isaac?

STATEMENT BY ISAAC NUKAPIGAK

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1 Good evening. For the record, Isaac Nukapigak,
president of Kuukpik.

3 I would like to be given the opportunity to speak on
behalf of my community and my shareholders, which is here in
Nuiqsut and throughout the Slope.

6 The proposed Draft Amendment of the Northeast NPR-A
record of decision, that was -- that was set in '98. The 79
stipulations that are vital to our community. These
protections that we see that are very vital to our subsistence
lifestyle and by trying to -- and making it a proposed
amendment to replace these vital protections that we had, by
with setting up a performance base stipulations. By my view,
I see that you are -- the strength of the stipulations are
being weakened and I would suggest strongly to BLM that these
stipulations just be in place. Because these are a very vital
area.

17 The other area that I know we depend on, the whole
Slope depends on, on this -- the -- the Northwest part of the
Teshekpuk should be off limits to any oil and gas. People on
the Slope depends on the subsistence of the caribou that we
depend on. Now, we need to protect these areas. I'm not
against -- I'm never ever against an development -- an oil and
gas exploration development, but just as long as it can be
done in an environmental sound manner, and with protections
that we need to rely that -- that is there for our protection.
Now, we have -- it's a very rich area that BLM's proposed to

add additional acreage for leasing, it's the very important vital area that we, as Inupiat people, depend on the subsistence resources. Even though there is proven technology up to date, I think definitely there needs to be some balancing. These issues need to be re-looked at.

6 The proposed -- these (indiscernible) implemented in 1998, record of decision, should consider to still be the same. These are our vital sources that we depend on. The, you know, the fish bearing lakes, the rivers that we depend on for subsistence. I may be a -- development, but we need these areas protected.

12 We -- actually we will be submitted our own written comment, but I just wanted to, you know, emphasize to BLM to make the right decisions on, you know, our behalf, that we're also, you know, the citizens of the United States, but we need those protections like the other folks are saying in their comments.

18 So, that's all I have to say. I just want to make it clear to the BLM for giving us an opportunity to express our comments.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Isaac. (Translates
23 Inupiaq) I see Ike. Is that Ike? Welcome home, Ike.

24 MR. KAIGELAK: Thank you, Arnold.

25 **STATEMENT BY IKE KAIGELAK**

My name is Isaac Kaigelak, for the record. And I'm a

1 31-year resident. Also, I'm a Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight
2 panel member.

3 And all this time -- ever since we have these meetings
4 (Speaks in Inupiaq) all the time, battle people's comments,
5 that way we could share what kind of comments (speaks in
6 Inupiaq). Thank you. (Applause)

7 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates in Inupiaq) For
8 the record, Isaac's comments relates to frustration and things
9 that are happening that -- because we need to think about long
10 term effects, not today's effects, but long term effects for
11 the next generations, for their renewable resources and our
12 renewable resources are going to be available since oil has a
13 limited exploration date in our lifetime, in our life span
14 here on the Arctic Slope.

15 So, his concerns are about relating to the -- not to
16 alter the traditional hunting areas and fishing areas on the
17 Arctic Slope, and preference to Alternative A.

18 CHAIR BROWER: I see Joe? (Speaking in
19 Inupiaq) Joseph Eviklook?

20 **STATEMENT BY JOSEPH EVIKLOOK**

21 (Speaking in Inupiaq)

22 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates a portion)
23 You have come again to Nuiqsut for the same purposes, that the
24 community of Nuiqsut is not going to benefit from any
25 employment opportunities from this proposal.

MR. EVIKLOOK: (Speaking in Inupiaq)

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1 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates a portion) Our
community has nothing to fall back to if we are going to go
back to driftwood. We don't have enough driftwood in our
shores and in the -- along the banks of the Coleville River,
brushes are not sufficient to heat our homes and we are much
reliant on fuel for our heating our community.

7 MR. EVIKLOOK: (Speaking in Inupiaq)

8 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates a portion) Today
all of our resources are not -- in Nuiqsut are not a hundred
percent on subsistence, but we have alternatives if, you know,
he has lived a hard life when he was young, in searching for
food and hunting, it's a hard life, but today in the community
of Nuiqsut, and this hardship is kind of evade -- evasive here
and not -- there is prevalent -- or not prevalent, but there
is options of nutritional needs that can be had in our
community.

17 MR. EVIKLOOK: (Speaking in Inupiaq)

18 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates a portion) He has
worked with the industry, the pipeline from Fairbanks to
Franklin Bluffs, and today the industry has shown that they
are capable of revegetation and setting back some things and
sometimes in better conditions, and that has not displaced the
animals as much and we worked -- were working on the pipeline
from Franklin Bluffs to Fairbanks. That sometimes they would
even throw rocks at the caribou to keep them -- because they
were that close during their -- that construction season.

1 MR. EVIKLOOK: (Speaking in Inupiaq)

2 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates a portion) Sue?

He's wondering why his back yard -- if you want to drill a
hole for oil or gas, his lot is available for that. (Laughter)
5 So, he's been thankful for the changes and the benefits of
oil -- oil and gas has changed for the benefit for safety, for
health and those things that he mentioned since the arrival of
the oil and gas industry on the Slope. And he welcomes your
participation in coming to Nuiqsut with that.

10 I think he might be serious about that lot. (Laughter)

11 CHAIR BROWER: Joe Nukapigak?

12 **STATEMENT BY JOE NUKAPIGAK**

13 For the record, my name is Joe Nukapigak, resident of
Nuiqsut. And I'm also Chairman of the Board of Kuukpik
Corporation and the Resource Development Director of Kuukpik.

16 And in regards to this additional lease sale that's
being proposed by BLM, when that first lease sale on Northeast
Planning area in 1998, I have testified before. And I
testified on those issues and have never changed up to this
date because those -- what we have worked so hard on in 1998,
that 79 stipulations are in written form and it should be in
fact the way we have worked so hard as three organizations,
which is Kuukpik, Native Village and City of Nuiqsut, as well
as with the Board of Government.

25 And back then I was satisfied with those decisions
that was decided under Clinton administration, but now when

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Republican Congress come -- when they came into power, and that's when the energy -- National Energy policy as set forth by the President Bush, changed all the (indiscernible) that we were in.

5 When you start stripping away these stipulations, it weakens, that's the concern that I have, is when you start basing these on a performance based stipulations. What is that? Let's -- let's be transparent about this issue. It's almost as if they've already set a policy that we don't know about. If the oil industry and the federal government is to work together on that in terms of -- along -- by consulting with the local villages, with Nuiqsut, Atkasuk and Barrow.

13 NPR-A as it was, from the day the President already set that aside as an NPR-A of Alaska. Well, it is still NPR-A. Apparently as oil industries are making discoveries west of Nuiqsut, then we -- we -- even before some of these proposed satellite developments are being -- are scheduled to being finalized by the BLM. I think there should be some delays in this -- in making this proposal until everything is understood.

21 The caribou migration and the Teshekpuk herd is the most important component of our wildlife here on the North Slope. They don't migrate as much so -- as essential caribou herd does, or porcupine over to the east. Teshekpuk caribou herds is always on the North Slope, they don't go no further than the foothills in the Brooks Range.

1 And those other villages that heavily depend on this
garibou herd, even though they're 30,000 to 40,000. But all
these villages, they are very heavily depending on that. We
all know that. And it is yet to be known when the satellite,
the proposed satellites of Alpine. Once the final EIS has
been given the green light by BLM, there's no pipeline yet,
but when does it become final then. Those proposed
regulations, stipulations, imposed on the oil industry, I
don't know how accurate they are.

10 These are the continued concerns that we always have
to -- said all along, whether they be from Kuukpik or whether
it be from Tribal organizations or from the Board of
Government. We -- if it's national government and State of
Alaska, of course, we recognize that, federal, state and Board
of government, as well as the local government, has benefitted
from the oil industry. We know that. It makes our life more
easier today than it was when we were growing up, by dog team
back then.

19 But the transformation of our landscape is -- is going
to be with us and it's going to be with our grandchildren,
they have to live with that too.

22 As the oil industry moves westward to the heart of the
population, it concerns me as well. I'm sure that other
villages have concerns with that too. There's a lot of North
Slope villages and North Slope residents who heavily depend on
caribou or through the river system, Aanaakliq and other

species of fish.

2 From the time immemorial we have been who we are. We
have been subsistence hunting because it is our heritage, it
is our culture, but when you start looking upon it as the
villages has done -- has seen, then the concerns, they get
more vital. The concerns of our land and environment when
it's being transformed with pipelines and facilities, makes me
wonder how that's going to be affected on a later date. Maybe
a couple of more generations from now. By the time when our
kids are -- when our kids come of age and when they become
grandfathers and the evolution within us is still there.

12 But are we going to keep continuing as we are because
we don't own some of the lands? 387,000 acres is a lot of
land, that's a lot, at least from my point of view. I mean,
it's three times more larger than what the Village Corporation
has selected, or even Barrow. The Village Corporation is --
it's a lot more than that too as well.

18 These stipulations that we have worked so hard on back
in 1998 should be intact instead of -- instead of being under
this formula of performance based stipulations. I -- I you
know, it's just like saying, hey, I found oil, now what does
it take to make it more -- stipulations that would be more
effective to us?

24 There are a lot of issues that we recognize and they
will continue to be issues that are still there. A -- still
be concerned. No issue stops being a concern. It will still

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continue to be a concern. It's a revolving thing.

2 When a democratic president (indiscernible) with
social values and whatnot, and a Republican Congress, that's
the difference between those two parties that I can see. And
here we -- and here there is environmentalists of all kinds,
pros and cons. We have seen that in our community. Some are
for it, some are not. Don't get me wrong that I oppose this
oil development, it's just that we need to have something in
black and white instead of a performance-based stipulation
that's being proposed by the federal government, is -- is not
what I had envisioned back in 1998, or from this village.

12 Transparency is the best policy, I would say.
Accommodation, communication with affected villages should be
continued with each and by working with each other. That is
my hope, that we continue to do that, by working with the
Subsistence Oversight Panel, with Kuukpik as they have worked
well for our community, and I don't see why not when the other
villages -- until BLM supposedly what, does Subsistence
Advisory Panel, same thing but at a regional level.

20 Sometimes, yes, Isaac is right, we don't know what the
other villages concerns might be. He is right about that. Or
vice versa, what these other villages are, what is the most
important component of their concerns that can't be worked out
by set stipulations instead of -- instead of weakening it, and
making it more stronger. There is weakness in some places.

Although we will have a written statement, it took us

so many hours to read these -- that was -- the studies and
whatnot, we're still working on that to make our written -- at
this time, but you know, it's -- with the time always running
like, sometimes you've got caught up with other issues as
well.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Thank you, Joe.

8 (Applause) (Translates in Inupiaq) The next speaker is Frank
Matumeak. Good evening, Frank.

10 STATEMENT BY FRANK MATUMEAK

11 Frank Matumeak. (Speaks in Inupiaq) Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 CHAIR BROWER: Frank's comments are related to
Viet Nam Veteran's Native Allotments. BLM has taken a wrong
course in preference to giving oil and gas properties and oil
and gas leases, and deny aboriginal Natives who went to View
Nam, their right for Native Allotments under the 1906 Native
Allotment Act. So, this is one of the issues that has been
lingering and BLM has taken the stance to deny these Native
Allotments which the Federal Government initiated, and those
must be restored or titles given to the Native Allotment's
applicants that are qualified under the Viet Nam era,
Veteran's Allotment Act which was passed by Congress.

24 And BLM needs to take a look at that, even cease from
these other preferences and deal with the Aboriginal Native
Allotments for Native View Nam Veterans in NPR-A or Alaska or

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Arctic Slope.

2 CHAIR BROWER: (Speaking in Inupiaq) Are
there any other names up there? For the record what I stated,
because the names -- the list of names that have signed up
have already been completed, and for those that want to speak
may speak so now and this is the opportunity to speak for or
against Alternative A, B, or C, and all those comments on the
89 Stipulations in 1998. So, this is an issue that we're
discussing here tonight. Mark?

10 STATEMENT BY MARK AHMAKAK

11 Yes. My name is Mark Ahmakak, a full time resident of
Nuiqsut for the last 31 years. I also work for Nanook, a
subsidiary of Kuukpiik Corporation under the auspices of KSOB.
14 also complete overhead by Conoco-Phillips on your
environmental studies support program.

16 For the record, in my involvement with the studies on
fisheries and caribou, the water fowl, some of these studies
have been documented, but however, they are fully reported to
the proper agencies in taking the subject of the caribou
herds. A herd of a 1,000 or 1,500 two summers ago they were
migrating through melt (ph) water, which they normally don't
and they went right on up to Kuparuk area and they had no way
of crossing the pipeline. We were just monitoring them from
hour to hour and they just veered off directly to the east
towards Sagwon to the Canning River.

Supposedly, that herd was normally supposed to have

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099
Caribou

migrated this way crossing the Colville, as always in the past. That's just to demonstrate that the pipelines and the oil industry are effectively rerouting the regular routes and migration routes of the caribou. And that's for the record.

5 And also, the timing of all these lease sales are being pretty much to a point where everybody's in a rush. Take for instance, leading up to this, also the Environmental Impact Statement for Alpine and your Satellite projects. Even though the project itself was still on the books and being worked on. Conoco-Phillips comes again and asking the community that they wanted support or they're going to the Bureau to get these permits, regardless of whether we approve of it or not. That's how much they're in a hurry.

14 Now, with this thing coming on, we're the first village that has been heavily impacted and now it's heading towards the west. I somewhat feel for the people over that way because I was born in Barrow and they are not ready for impacts like that. We are forced to suffer through, go through the social changes in the community. There's a lot of things that are changing here, each -- and it's all because of the oil industry. You say you want to be neighbors, then where are your mitigating measures? What are we going to fall back on if our caribou are gone and our fish that are traversing on these creeks and the rivers, what's going to happen then? Where are we going to go fishing? Are you just going to say that the mitigation measure is not there and then

are you going to transplant some other type of fisheries to our region or are you going to import a reindeer herd? Are you going to force us back into the dark ages? I do not think so.

5 I have kids that are grown now. I am forced to work because I want my older kids to learn how to hunt and that's how they've been. I don't mind working. Everybody has to work everywhere. We have things to pay for, but losing our culture and our livelihood on account of oil, which is just only beneficial to a handful. And the majority of your workers are not from up here, they're from Mat-Su and they're from out of states. Much of the contract people you hire or contract with, they import people from the Lower 48 while you have your manpower available from all these villages where they need work.

16 That's the only comment I have. Thank you.
(Applause)

18 CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Mark. (Translates in Inupiaq) Eli?

20 **STATEMENT BY ELI NUKAPIGAK**

21 Good evening. My name is Eli Nukapigak. I'm a city council member, KSOB.

23 On these '98 Stipulations that you've been working on for so many years, now that they are being reduced to the number that we can't use it no more.

If that should happen with that '98 Stipulation, I

would like to proceed that an accompanied (indiscernible)
agreement should be in place. And the critical land use
habitat, the industry need to acknowledge the importance of
subsistence hunters (indiscernible) people on the North Slope.

5 (Indiscernible) on the -- should be in place before
any exploration to be -- to happen in the Teshekpuk area. The
(indiscernible) land use area of the Inupiat people in our
North Slope. If we have to do that, what we have now is
nothing. Only what we got -- been provided, with the plan
that they have promises -- winter come, Governor Knowles and
Bruce Babbitt that come here five years ago and saying, look
we will have (indiscernible). Now, Alpine is up and going
over five years now, where are the trout for our people in the
Nunavut and the whole North Slope region?

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Eli. (Translates in
Inupiaq) Maggie? My grandmother was Maggie. Maggie?

18 **STATEMENT BY MAGGIE KAVOSKY**

19 Good evening. Maggie Kavosky for the record. (Speaks
in Inupiaq) So, I really support that the strong stipulations
stays in line for this area. (Speaks in Inupiaq) (Applause)

22 CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Maggie wants the
stipulations to be strong and strict because of the animals
which we depend on, they are at stake. And our subsistence
livelihood is at stake. Cost of resources in the stores is
cost prohibitive and high and we need to maintain our

subsistence way of life. Sarah Kunaknana

2

STATEMENT BY SARAH KUNAKNANA

3 My name is Sarah Kunaknana. (Speaks in Inupiaq)

4

CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Sarah.

5

Sarah would like to keep -- mirrors the concerns that Maggie Kavosky, to keep the strips in tact as they have been somewhat acceptable thus far, in the NPR-A development. Because to keep the environment clean and she would like -- its maintenance has caused it to sustain our renewable resources so far. Much of the development nearby already has altered migratory paths of the wildlife, caribou for example, they don't migrate in the areas traditionally. That change is significant.

14

And for that reason, she would like the Alpine site as a good measuring tape for this because their migrations are altered and these have -- the migrations have changed and right now they are in a dilemma of oil and subsistence resources that are utilized. And working somewhat hand in hand because you have to use oil or gas to go after your resource, but here again, the strips -- the existing stipulations seems to be managing in favor of the environmental development in the NPR-A.

23

Anybody else? Going once, -- Rosemary? Rosemary Ahtuangauak.

25

STATEMENT BY ROSEMARY AHTUANGARUAK

For the record, my name is Rosemary Ahtuangaruak.

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I've been in Nuiqsut now for about 19 years. I'm currently the Mayor for the City of Nuiqsut. I participate as a board member for IKAS, and I'm member for the Federal Subsistence Advisory Board.

5 I'd like to support the other community members that have testified tonight. They've given some very good testimony and we're all mirroring similar concerns. I support the No Action Alternative. Alternative A. This is offering 87 percent of lands leased. It's not worth the risk to open the biological sensitive areas to development. It's a risk to our community that depend on these resources for sustenance. It's not worth the minimal benefits that will come from that.

13 It's important to try to get a balance. Right now our community has suffered a lot from development that has changed our activities, but our culture has been to grow and learn from past experiences. Our elders have always taught us things us that have caused hardship in the past and we are proactive in teaching that to our children to encourage our traditional lifestyle. There's all sorts of activities that we avoid to try to continue our traditional and cultural uses of the area.

22 There have been some positive benefits. We have a modern health clinic. We have a modern school. We have an open city hall. We have representation within the North Slope Borough and the State of Alaska and the federal government. All of these things have been positive, but if we open up the

remaining area of NPR-A that's not open for leasing, these will not help us with the hardship our community will face.

3 It's very important for our future sustenance in our communities that we protect these vital resources that have sustained our lifestyle in spite of the activities around us. 6 We've had very minimal employment in our community, even with the corporation's best efforts, the length of employment does not pay for all the modern costs that we have to our daily lifestyle now.

10 We recognize the importance of oil and gas development for the national need for energy, it's not that we oppose this, it's that we want development to be done in a way that's not costing to us. We have increased our distance of travel to try to attempt a harvest as well as the number of trips that we make to try to harvest. These are costs that come up on our families. Our families have to try to go without other things because we're trying to continue our traditional lifestyle.

19 We have many households that have bought hundreds of gallons of gas to attempt to continue the lifestyle that has grown us into the rich nourishing people that we are.

22 We need to earmark funds for social and cultural impacts to the tribal or city government. It's really important that we try to address these effects that are continuing in spite of efforts to prevent them.

 We need to plan for the cumulative effects. We need

to identify monitoring guidelines and parameters for benefit and cost analysis that will help us to work on improving some of the needs for the impact funds that will help to mitigate some of these measures.

5 We need to identify alternative subsistence sites if we're going to lose areas to subsistence, where are we going to have a chance to go to? Are there other communities that are going to allow us to use their subsistence resources? If we go without in our area -- because now we've got pipeline that circumferences us and we can't get to caribou around us, what other areas are we going to move to? What are we going to do for fishing and other activities?

13 We've seen many decades of change. We've had changes to our whaling. We've had changes to our caribou hunting. We've had changes to our fishing lifestyle. These are all things that have been beared upon our community members. We've had other people from industries state about how we force the oil industry to pay for freight to get our whale home. Well, they forget that they don't want us to use traditional use areas, that we would have put them in ice cellars to store them until we could get them later in the season when the river is frozen and we can bring it back on our own means, but now we can't use those areas. We've got many sites like that that we don't use.

25 We want to hope that our families are going to be able to use areas that are biologically rich for our continued use

and that's why we continue to comment in spite of these activities.

3 Our efforts over these many months and these many years and these many decades, to comments from our community members and our elders that are no longer with us, need to be recognized. The same concerns that were brought back in the 70's and '80's and '90's with development activities are still continuing today, but the reality has occurred with our generation and we don't want to see these continued losses going into the other future generations to come.

11 It's important for us to sustain the vitality of the Teshekpuk area for the sustenance that it gives to our people. It's part of who and what we are. It gives us a hope and sustenance for the winter that gives us continued homogenous unity within our communities. When these things are taken away from us our winters are very hard and we've seen that already. We don't want to continue to see that. We want to prevent that by protecting areas that will sustain us as Teshekpuk Lake has done for many generations.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
22 Translates in Inupiaq) State your name for the record?

23 **STATEMENT BY THOMAS AHTUANGARUAK**

24 My name is Thomas Ahtuanguaruk, Jr. I work for the North Slope Borough, Wildlife Department.

I have a couple of concerns, or the hunter's concerns

about the helicopters flying around while they are hunting and
scaring off the caribou. And they were wondering if anybody
could do something about it? Like if they see any hunters
around over there, I was wondering if they could go to a
different location and do their service?

6 CHAIR BROWER: Okay. I will need the aircraft
number, and what it is? A 185 helicopter? A 214? Any number
you can find out so I can get a hold of Bob, Dave or those BLM
surveyors that are doing the Native Allotment surveys, and we
will tell them on the same day. This is becoming a prevalent
issue between Nuiqsut and Barrow, and I appreciate your
comments on that.

13 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. Thank you.

14 CHAIR BROWER: (Translates in Inupiaq) Okay.
15 After Thomas? Going once, twice. Sorry about that.

16 **STATEMENT BY BERNICE KAIGELOK**

17 Bernice Kaigelok. I was busy cutting caribou, so I
missed the first part, but BLM, this whole North Slope, I want
BLM to recognize all Native Allotments that are pending and
need certification. They need to be done right away. Even
the ones that are closed need to be reopened and looked at
because my father and my aunt's allotment has been closed for
a long time. When there's an ice cellar sod house on that
land, we have no ride over it even though there's proof there.
25 So, I want BLM to do something about the Native
Allotments that are closed or pending. They are 34 years old.

1How much longer are they going to linger? We want title to
2our land.

3 And another thing, I just came from down river and
4there was a chopper and I didn't get the number. It was a
5blue and white chopper. And there was a plane also with radio
6antennas, so they were scouting for something, and it's moose
7season right now. Lot's of hunters up there with choppers and
8planes flying.

9 CHAIR BROWER: Like a 185 or 207?

10 MRS. KAIGELOK: A 207 and a chopper. So, for
11this NPR-A on that site, I know we are supposed to only talk
12about that area, but there are so many Native Allotments
13pending and they need to go to the rightful owners.

14 And we need to keep the original buffer zone for Fish
15Creek. I don't want that area touched over there. They tell
16us to wheel and deal and say, give a little if you want this,
17give a little if you want that. When we say no, it's no. So,
18Fish Creek needs to stay clear of industry.

19

20 Thank you. (Applause)

21 CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Bernice.

22 At this time I will close the public.....

23 ROSEMARY AHTUANGARUAK: We just want to
24support Bernice's statement, the leadership of Nuiqsut agree
25that. We need to help resolve that issue. That's the only
thing I wanted to add.

1 CHAIR BROWER: The public comment period at
2:30 p.m., and as a hearing officer, I officially close the
comments since we have finished all of those that have written
and volunteered for their public comments related to the
Bureau of Land Management Draft Amendment to the Northeast
National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, IEP/EIS.

7 And the folks here, Susan and Bob have mentioned they
will answer questions and discuss some of the issues that are
relative to the impacts in the NPR-A and around Nuiqsut if you
have questions to them. I will turn the floor over to Susan.

11 MS. CHILDS: If you close the meeting, Arnold,
we'll be.....

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: We'll be around to answer
questions.

15 MS. CHILDS: We'll be here.

16 CHAIR BROWER: All right. You'll be around to
answer questions. (Speaking in Inupiaq) We will close the
public comments for tonight here in Nuiqsut.

19 (Off record)

20 * * * END OF PROCEEDINGS * * *

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3

I, Jerri Young, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter with Metro Court Reporting, do hereby certify:

5 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 38
6 contain a full, true and correct transcript of the Public
7 Scoping Meeting before the Bureau of Land Management, was
8 taken by Janice Scott and transcribed by Janice Scott.

8 THAT the Transcript has been prepared at the request
of ENSR International, 1835 South Brag, Suite 490, Anchorage,
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10 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 3rd day of September,
2004.

12

13

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED BY:

14

15

16

17 Jerri Young
Notary Public in and for Alaska

18 My Commission Expires: 11-03-07

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